

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3569

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT,CZ,GW/UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW SETS PROPAGANDA GOALS FOR WWII COMMEMORATION

1. CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO REKINDLE MEMORY OF WWII VICTORY NOW
IN FULL SWING IN THE USSR. IN THIS REGARD, PRAVDA LEADER
OF MRCH 17 SPELLS OUT SOVIET PLANS FOR CELEBRATION OF 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WWII WHICH WERE COORDINATED AT PRAGUE MEETING
OF EE SECRETARIES FOR IDEOLOGY ON MARCH 4-5. WE ASSUME
PUBLICATION IN SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA OF CPSU CC DECREE
APPROVING PRAGUE MEETING WAS DELAYED PEDNING INSTRUCTIONS
TO "APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS" TO IMPLEMENT AGREE MEASURES.

2. PRAVDA LEADER LISTS KEY THEMES WHICH WILL BE BASIS
OF PROPAGANDA EFFORTS THOUGHOUT EASTERN EUROPE AND WE
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CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THEIR CONSTANT REPETITION IN THE

SOVIET MEDIA OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS: (A) GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET VICTORY FOR PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD; (B) PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY OF THESE COUNTRIES; (C) IMPORTANCE OF DEEPENING OF DETENTE, PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WILL ALSO FOCUS ON ROLE OF UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, PARTISANS, AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS ON WARTIME EXPERIENCE IN ANTI-HITLER COLLABORATION BY STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

3. DEFENSIVE EFFORTS OF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, WILL INCLUDE "UNMASKING OF IMPERIALIST REACTION AND ACTIVITIES OF IMPERIALIST BLOC"; "LAYING BARE EFFORTS BY AGGRESSIVE CIRCLES AND MAOIST LEADERSHIP TO HINDER DEEPENING OF DETENTE AND TO WHIP UP RACE OF NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS"; AND GAINSAYING SLANDEROUS CONCOCTIONS ABOUT "COMMUNIST AGGRESSION," "THE SOVIET THREAT," AND THE "PLOT OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS."

4. MOSCOW'S DOMESTIC SCHEDULE OF CELEBRATIONS WAS SPELLED OUT IN FEBRUARY 9 PRAVDA WHICH OUTLINED PARTY DECREE ON SUBJECT. NORMAL MAY DAY CEREMONIES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ROUND OF REPUBLIC MEETINGS IN MAY 5-9 PERIOD; A "CEREMONIAL MEETING" IN THE KREMLIN ON MAY 8 IS PLANNED AND PROBABLY WILL BE ADDRESSED BY BREZHNEV. A MILITARY PARADE IS EXPECTED FOR MAY 9.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN CLEAR STATEMENTS OF SELF-JUSTIFICATION FOR WARTIME LEADERSHIP IN THE WELTER OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY ARTICLES AS WELL AS PRAISE FOR STALIN'S LEADERSHIP ROLE. MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE TO DATE APPEARS IN MARCH 15 ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY MOSCOW NEWS WHICH FEATURED TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF STALIN (ONE A CENTERFOLD) AND A HIGHLY LAUDATORY SKETCH OF STALIN'S SPARTAN LIVING HABITS TAKEN FROM THE MEMOIRS OF ARMY GENERAL S. SHTEMENKO, WHICH COULD AS WELL HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN 1945. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING SIMILAR AS YET IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE MEDIA.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT MORE DISCREET REFERENCES TO STALIN IN RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE PRESS, BUT THE OPPORTUNITY
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AND NEED TO JUSTIFY WARTIME RECORD OF THE PARTY WITH STALIN AT THE HELM CANNOT BE BYPASSED BY PRESENT LEADERSHIP IN ITS CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE WAR.
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